

### REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 33-63 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1-6, 8, 11-16, 18, 19, 21-23, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Thorson, U.S. Patent No. 6,055,618 ("Thorson"). Claims 1-9, 11-16, and 18-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasuda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,892,923 ("Yasuda"). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorson in view of "Distributed, Deadlock-Free Routing in Faulty, Pipelined, Direct Interconnect Networks" by Gaughan et al. ("Gaughan"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, at least with respect to some of the claims. Additionally, in view of the cancellation of claims 1-32, Applicants submit that these rejections are moot.

Each of the new claims 33-63 recites a combination of features not taught or suggested in the cited art. For example, claim 33 recites a combination of features including: "a posted command virtual channel dedicated to posted request packets, and wherein a given posted request packet communicates a request that is considered completed by a source of the request upon transmission of the request by the source, and wherein transmitting the posted request packet comprises transmitting on the posted command virtual channel". Applicants note that the present Office Action states that the Examiner assumes a reasonable but broad interpretation of "posted request packet" but never states what the reasonable, broad interpretation is (see, e.g., Office Action, page 2, last two lines). The Examiner goes on to assert that posted command virtual channel may be any of the virtual channels described in, e.g., Thorson. This interpretation would appear to give no meaning to the term "posted". Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Thorson and/or Yasuda teaches or suggests "a posted command virtual channel dedicated to posted request packets, and wherein a given posted request packet communicates a request that is considered completed by a source of the request upon transmission of the request by the source, and wherein transmitting the posted request packet comprises transmitting on the posted command virtual channel" as recited in claim 33. Claims 34-43 depend from claim 33 and recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

As another example, claim 44 recites a combination of features including: "a posted command virtual channel dedicated to posted request packets, and wherein a given posted request packet communicates a request that is considered completed by a source of the request upon transmission of the request by the source, wherein the first node is configured to transmit a posted request packet on the posted command virtual channel". Claims 45-54 depend from claim 44 and recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

As yet another example, claim 55 recites a combination of features including: "circuitry configured to transmit a posted request packet on a posted command virtual channel of a plurality of virtual channels ... wherein the posted command virtual channel is dedicated to posted request packets, and wherein a given posted request packet communicates a request that is considered completed by a source of the request upon transmission of the request by the source ". Claims 56-63 depend from claim 55 and recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

### CONCLUSION


Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-98400/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims
- ☐ Marked-up Copy of Amended Paragraphs
- ☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$  
for fees (      ).
- ☒ Other: IDS and cited references

Respectfully submitted,



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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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